

SB Water Quality Committee
August 16, 2021

Committee members present : Jack Whitney (Chairman), Gary Lessing, Bob Fisher, Dave Wilson, Glenn Dallas, Brian Moroz, Maureen Hartman (Town Manager)
Guest: Chris Vanuga - Deloitte & Touche

Jack called the meeting to order at 10:00 am.

The committee discuss the following topics:

1. Introduction of Council Representatives and CWQC Members and Committee Ground Rules

- a. Since this was the first Committee meeting, each member presented himself.
- b. The plan is to have monthly meetings. Town requirements are that Committee members must attend 80% of the meetings to remain members in good standing. Up to two of the committee members can attend by telephone for each meeting.
- c. Derek Abbott is our town council representative. He could not attend today.

2. Reviewed and discussed current Mission & Purpose and Scope of Work, including the relationship of CWQC and other Committees

- a. The published Committee Mission & Purpose and the Scope of Work was reviewed.
- b. There was some discussion about changing the phrase “fishable and swimmable” and try to connect it to the State standards for water quality.
- c. It was agreed to coordinate with the Planning Commission about their thoughts on this.
- d. We’ll discuss this in more detail at future meetings and may make a recommendation(s) to the town council at some time in the future if it is felt that changes are necessary.

3. Reviewed current Committee and canal related budgets and ongoing actions / projects

- a. UD Canal water sample testing budget is \$4700. We’re currently spending approximately \$700 with the University of Delaware. Dave will coordinate with UD and may recommend an increase of the number of sites and tests paid for by South Bethany.
- b. Also \$10,000 is in the budget for Solitude to monitor water quality. They were introduced to the Town by DNREC and are now under contract with the Town. Maureen administers the contract. It is doubtful of all funds will be used this year.
- c. The Town budget also includes:
 - i. \$5000 maintenance monitoring – as an example - pulling deer from the canals, etc.
 - ii. Floating wetlands - \$1000 for cutting the plants. We are currently using only “spartina alterniflora” for the floating gardens.

- d. There was some concern with the Solitude recommendation to change out the floating wetland plants on an annual basis. The Committee will look into this.
- e. It was discuss that 2 major ways to control and impact water quality is to limit nutria into our canals and also to improve water circulation. A previous study had been proposed and the Committee will look into that in the future.
- f. The Woods Hole dredging study was briefly discussed.
- g. The canal water aeration projects were also discussed. The data did not indicate any increase in water quality resulted from the diffusers used.
- h. The oyster program was discussed. The effectiveness of this in the past is unknown. At present CIB asks \$50 per setup annually. There is no plan for the Town to fund this as a result. Glenn Dallas commented that it takes about 2 years for an oyster spat to grow large enough to be effective but DNREC requires they be changed out annually. They fear the adult oysters will be eaten and the ensuing liability.

4. Discussed possible action to evaluate effectiveness / impact on water quality goals of past Town and Committee projects

- a. We also discuss how we could learn from other towns / communities around the country. Florida seems to be one of the leaders in environmental codes and standards. For instance, it was reported that they do not allow fertilizers to be used within 20 foot of any water.
- b. Committee input to other Committees was discussed. It could be helpful to research the present Codes and possibly make recommendations about changes that could be implemented. This could include elimination of roof drains and outdoor shower drains for existing homes into the canals, controls for dumping of other nutrients into the canals, and related storm water and bulkhead regulations.

**5. Discussed possible change recommendations to current Goals and Objectives and SOW
See Item 2 above.**

6. Discussed possible change recommendations to CWQC objectives and / or projects

7. Discussed areas where CWQC could consider making CWQ related recommendations to other Committees

8. Assignments for the next meeting

- a. Jack requested that Maureen check with Solitude on what chemicals (if any) they would recommend using so that we can vet the materials ahead of time.
- b. Maureen will get info on the life and type of plants.
- c. Maureen will try to get plans for the work accomplished on the east side of Coastal Hwy to raise the storm drains.
- d. Jack and Maureen will look for the 2010 CIB study on ways to reduce the runoff into the canals.
- e. Brian and Jack will investigate and conduct longer-term statistical analyses that could identify the effectiveness/results of previous work done by the Town and others since 2008.

- f. Maureen will send Jack the State study on storm water resiliency.
 - g. No specific subcommittee assignments were set up. A topic for future meetings.
- 9. It was decided that Monday afternoon meeting would be the best time. Jack will schedule monthly meetings and advise of the schedule
- 10. Dave Wilson made a power point presentation with the results of the Citizens Monitoring Program and SB Water Quality Trends from 2014 to 2020. This presentation was well done and it depicted many of the trends we have seen over the past few years.

Meeting adjourned at 12:04 pm.